

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

#8/6

IN RE:

APPLICATION OF : STEVEN D. CLARK, PAUL MORRISON AND PEDRO VELIS

TITLE : AMINE-FREE EMULSIFICATION OF ALKALINE EARTH METAL SULFONATES

SERIAL NO. : 09/621,857

FILING DATE : July 24, 2000

EXAMINER : REDDICK, M.

ART UNIT : 1713

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. : 4547-8

FAX RECEIVED

OCT 06 2002

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TO: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, DC 20231

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APPLICANT'S RESPONSE TO THE EXAMINER'S OFFICE ACTION
MAILED MAY 6, 2002

This paper is respectfully submitted in response to the Examiner's first substantive Office Action mailed on May 6, 2002.

AMENDMENT**In the Claims:****Kindly amend Claims 1-6 as follows:**

1. (Amended Twice) A method of forming an amine-free emulsion of an alkaline earth metal sulfonate compound, said method comprising the steps of:

- a) adding [a urethane-based] an associative thickener [compound] to water;
- b) dispersing said associative thickener [compound] in said water by mixing until a uniform solution of said water and said associative thickener is